

TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



TWIN SPICA

13

Kou Yaginuma

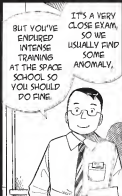
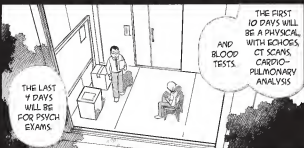


CONTENTS

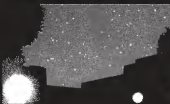
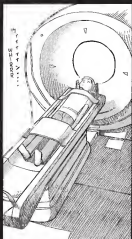
MISSION:65.....	003
MISSION:66.....	039
MISSION:67.....	079
MISSION:68.....	111
MISSION:69.....	147
★	
ANOTHER SPICA.....	171



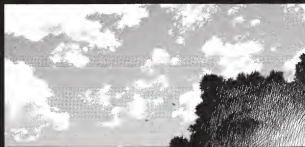










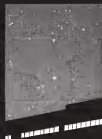


MISSION:65





THE
COUGHING
HAD STOPPED,
AND
HE'S
SLEEPING
NOW.



WE STILL
DON'T
KNOW WHAT
CAUSED IT.

IT
WAS SO
SUDDEN.
WE WERE
SHOCKED
TOO.



NO,
NOT
THAT
I
KNOW
OF

CAN YOU
THINK
OF ANY
REASON
FOR THIS
TO HAPPEN?

DID HE
EVER
COLLAPSE
OR
FAINT?



AND HE SAID
HE NEVER HAD
ANY MAJOR
ILLNESSES.

THERE'S
NOTHING IN
HIS MEDICAL
RECORDS
FROM THE
SCHOOL.





BEFORE
WE CAN
SAV FOR
SURE

WE'LL
HAVE TO
WAIT
FOR THE
RESULTS
OF THE
EXAMS

BUT
IF IT
HAPPENS
THAT

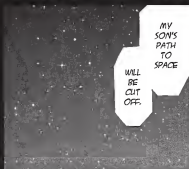


I'M
SORRY
TO
SAY

OUR
MEDICAL
TEAM
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
HANDLE IT.

SHE
HAS

A RARE
GENETIC
AILMENT.

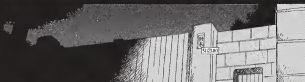


MY
SON'S
PATH
TO
SPACE

WILL
BE
CUT
OFF.



YOU
MEAN
...







TO BE
A GOOD
FATHER.

I CAN'T
PRETEND
NOW





MY
DAD

TOLD ME
TO GIVE THIS
TO THE
DOCTOR AT
THE SPACE
CENTER.



MAKING
A KID
BRING
THESE
IN...



UH,
THE LAST
ROOM ON
THE RIGHT.

WHERE
IS MY
BROTHER ?



THANK
YOU

SHU'S
MOTHER'S
MEDICAL
RECORDS.

AH...



IT'S A
RARE AND
SERIOUS
GENETIC
ILLNESS.

THE
SYMPTOMS
ARE THE
SAME AS
HERS.

NO
MISTAKE
ABOUT
IT.



DID WE
REALLY
NOT HAVE
ANY
SUBJECTIVE
SYMPTOMS?

ALL THAT
TRAINING
AT THE SPACE
SCHOOL
WOULD HAVE
TESTED
HIS BODY.



THIS
ILLNESS
USUALLY
PROGRESSES
SLOWLY.

A SUDDEN
OUTBREAK
LIKE WITH
SHU IS
UNHEARD
OF.



LIKTA
PHARMA-
CEUTICALS
SLOW THE
DISEASE'S
PROGRESS
AND EASE
THE
SYMPTOMS.

OVER
TIME,
THESE
DRUGS
FROM

BUT
WE
DON'T
KNOW IF
IT'LL HAVE
ANY IMPACT
ON A CASE
PAST
LATENCY.



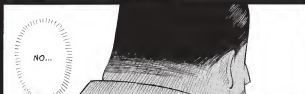
ALL WE
CAN DO
NOW

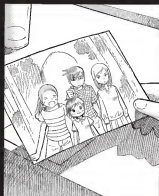


IS HOPE
THE DRUGS
HAVE SOME
EFFECT.









IS AN
ASTRO-
NAUT
MAJOR
TOO?

THE
TINY
GIRL

THAT'S
ASUMI
KAMO-
SAWA.

YUP.

CAN SUCH
A TINY GIRL
REALLY BE AN
ASTRONAUT?

PETITE
TYPES ARE
AT AN
ADVANTAGE

WHEN IT
COMES TO
BECOMING
AN ASTRO-
NAUT.

ACTUALLY

OF
COURSE.









NO
MATTER
WHAT
ANYONE
SAYS.

THEN
DON'T
EVER
LET IT
GO

IF
THAT'S
YOUR
REAL
DREAM.



AND
YOU SHOULD
MAKE LOTS
OF FRIENDS.



ARE THE
SHORTCUT
TO YOUR
DREAMS.

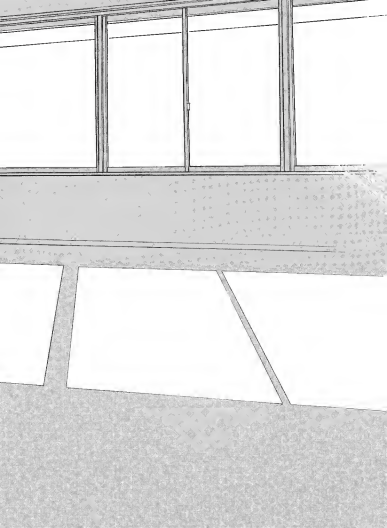
TRUE
FRIENDS



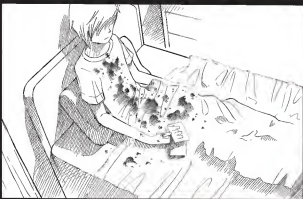


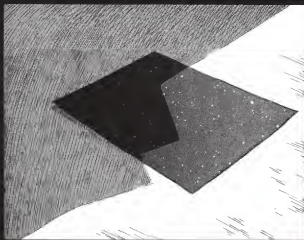


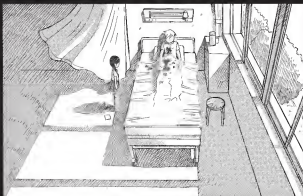






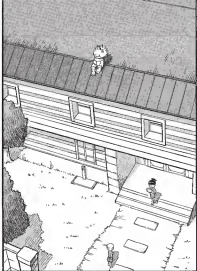






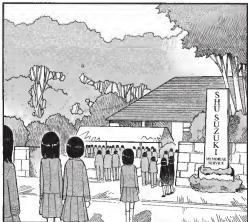


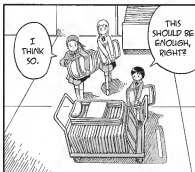


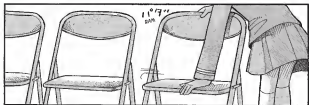


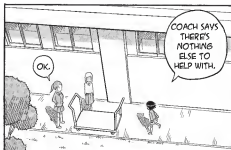
MISSION:66













I
SEE
...

SHE
OFFERED
THAT ONE
WHEN
THEY
ASKED
HER.



SHE
TOOK
IT AT
SCHOOL.

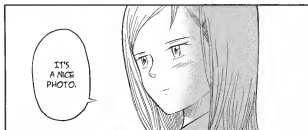
AH,
YEAH,



HLIH?

DID
MISS
OUMI!

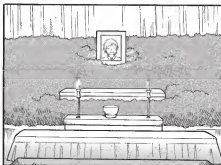
TAKE
THAT
PHOTO
?

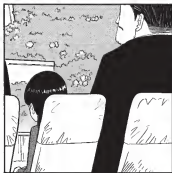


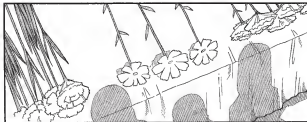
IT'S
A NICE
PHOTO.



YEAH...







WHAT'S
FUCHU
THINKING
?









PONKAN
JUICE?



YES,

PONKAN
JUICE.



IF YOU
CAN'T FIND IT,
JUST ASK
SOMEONE
TO TELL YOU
WHERE IT IS.

THERE'S A
VENDING
MACHINE
HERE THAT
HAS IT.



I'LL BE
DROPPING BY
AT HOME,

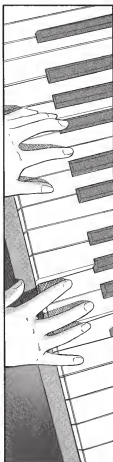
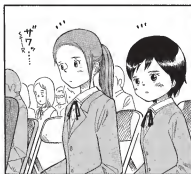
OH,
AND

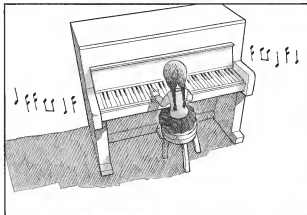


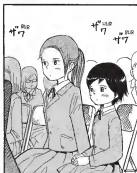
I WANT
YOU TO
PLAY
THAT
SONG.

AND
WHEN
I DO

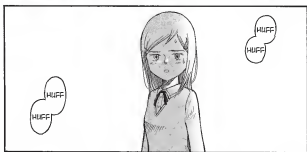


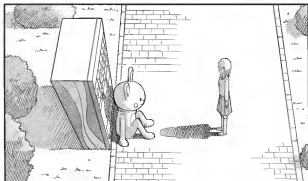


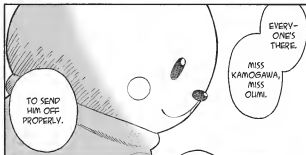


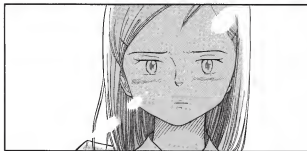
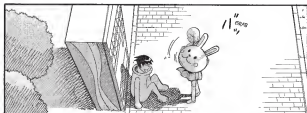


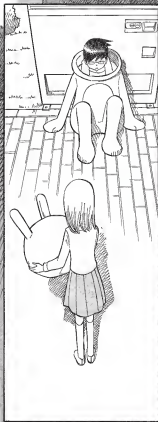






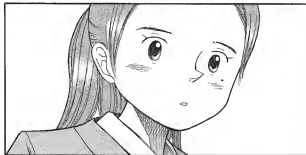


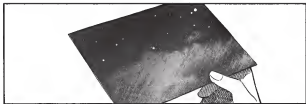


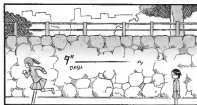
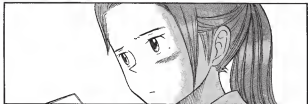


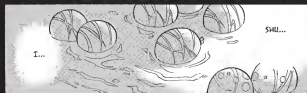






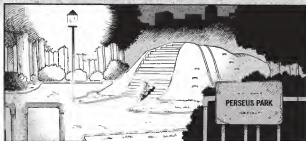


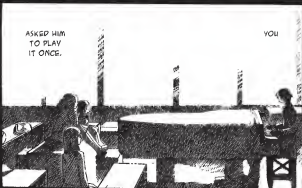


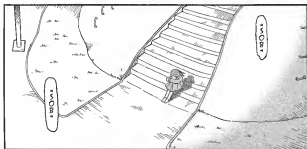






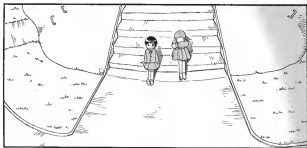








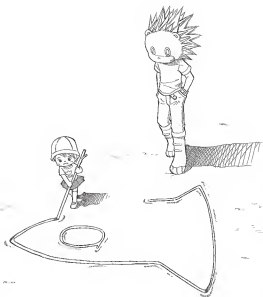






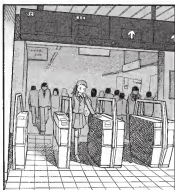


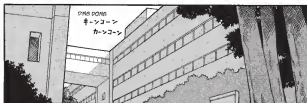
MISSION:67

















NO.

ARE YOU
REALLY NOT
GOING?

FORMAL
MEMO-
RIALS.

I DON'T
THINK HE
WOULD'VE
LIKED

PLUS,

I'M NOT
GOOD
WITH THE
SOLENN,
DEPRESSING
STUFF.

WHAT'S
MORE,
A HABITUAL
HOOKEY-
PLAYER
HAS NO
RIGHT TO
COMPLAIN.

BUT
THAT
GUY

I
DIDN'T
EVEN
CRY
WHEN
MY
GRAMPS
DIED.

I'M NOT
BRAGGING,
BUT
I HAVE
VERY FEW
MEMORIES
OF CRYING.



WAS MY
BEST
FRIEND.







I WAS
THINKING
OF GOING
TO SHU'S
PLACE.
CARE
TO JOIN
ME?



MR.
SHIOMI
SAID.

THERE
WERE
TONS
ABOUT
SPACE,
AFTER
ALL.

ALL THE
BOOKS IN HIS
LIBRARY ARE
BEING GIFTED
TO THE
SCHOOL.



I JUST
WANTED
TO RETURN
THE BOOKS I
BORROWED.



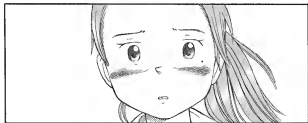
OH, DON'T
WORRY,
IT'S
NOTHING
WEIRD.

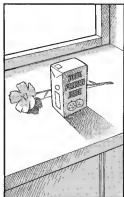
HEH ?

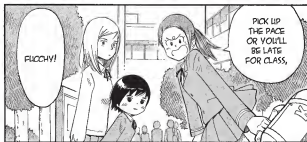


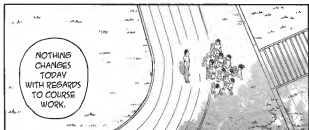
THEY'RE
GOING TO
RENOVATE
THE
ROOM
AND TURN
IT INTO A
LIBRARY FOR
ALL STUDENTS
AT THE
SCHOOL.



















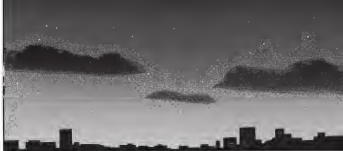




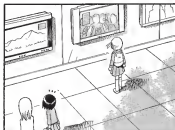


YEAH.







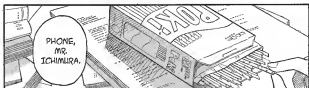














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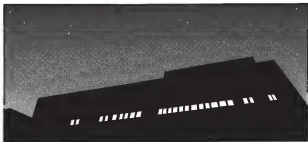






















LONG
BEFORE
THE FIRST
MARIKA
DID.

THE FIRST
MARIKA'S
MOTHER
DIED OF
ILLNESS



MAKES
THINGS
SEEM
VERY
UNNATURAL.

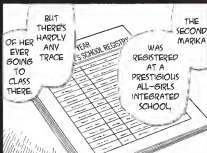
JUST
TAKING
THOSE
FACTS

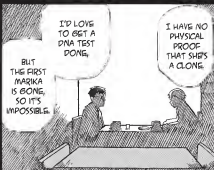


SAME
NAME.

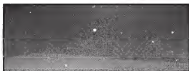
YET LIKE
TWO PEAS
IN A POD.

BORN TO
DIFFERENT
MOTHERS.

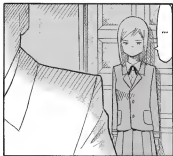






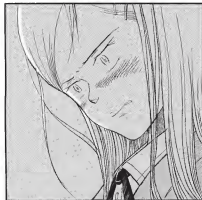


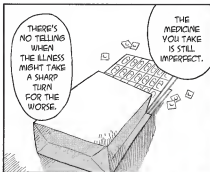














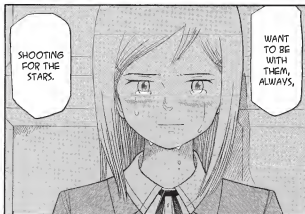
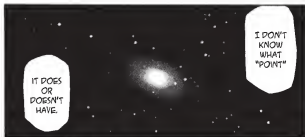


I
RAN
AS
FAST AS
I COULD,
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME.



AT
T.S.S.
I LAUGHED
FROM THE
BOTTOM OF
MY HEART
FOR THE
FIRST TIME.

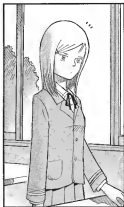
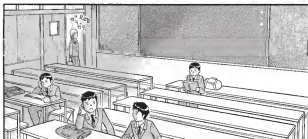




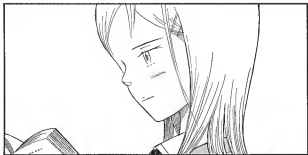








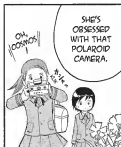




MISSION:69























BUT THAT
DOESN'T
RENDER HER
GUILTY.

CERTAINLY,
THERE ARE SOME
QUESTIONABLE
ASPECTS ABOUT
HER BIRTH.

FIRST
SO SEE
HER
TRAIN.

IF YOU
INSIST ON
DOING
THE
ARTICLE,

IT'S
TOUGH,
DIZZIFYING
STUFF.

IT'S NOT
THE KIND OF
THING YOU
CAN KEEP UP
IF YOU'RE
NOT
COMMITTED.

I'VE SEEN
THE TRAINING
THEY PUT
THE KIDS
IN THE
ASTRONAUT
COURSE
THROUGH.

A BIGGER
CRIME?

ISN'T
THAT

COULD
CRUSH
ANY CHANCE
SHE HAS OF
ACHIEVING
HER
DREAMS.

MAKING
THE SECRETS
OF THE
UKITA FAMILY
PUBLIC

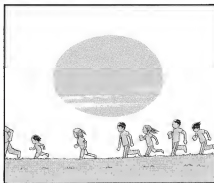
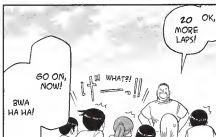




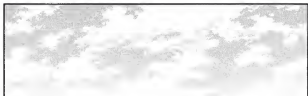


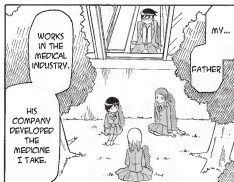


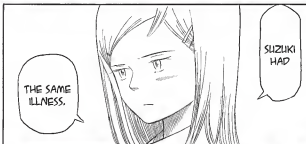
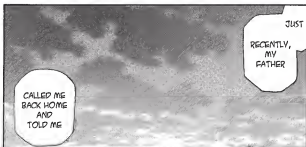


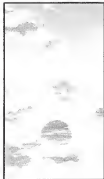


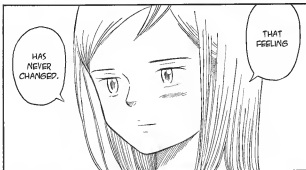
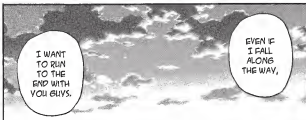




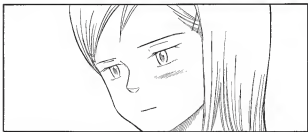
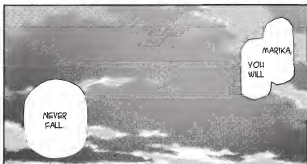


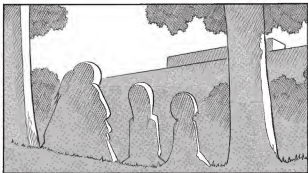










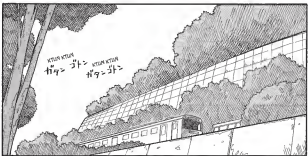
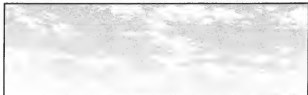












CONTINUED IN TWIN SPICA VOL.4

ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA

no one
paid
attention
in Modern
Japanese
class.



by the time
the leaves
gathered
on the
ground



At our school,
where far
more students
got jobs rather
than went on
to college,



This was
during fall of
my senior year
at high school.

PIPS DONS
ギーンコーン
ギーンコーン



one girl waved
throughout at
her boyfriend
jogging laps
around the
school
grounds,



A select few kept
their noses in
English
phrasebooks
and test
prep books,



The
nappers
were the
least
of it.



PLEASE
LOOK
AT THE
BLACK-
BOARD.

WHAT'S
SO FUN
ABOUT
TEACHING
ANYWAY?



...



with
absolutely
no prospects
of any sort.

KEEP
IT
DOWN.



in
between
was me,

and



This Ms. E suddenly one day closed her lesson book.



We students hardly even gossiped about her.



No man in her life, she seemed like the type whose nose was stuck in a book since girlhood.



You'd have been hard-pressed to find anything attractive about Ms. E, over 40 and single.



in its entirety, from memory, to her inattentive class.

recited Chuya Nakahara's poem "Soiled Sorrow"



Ms. E

MY SOILED SORROW ...



ON MY SOILED SORROW TODAY, LIGHT SNOW FALLS AGAIN;
PAST MY SOILED SORROW TODAY, THE WINDS BLOW AGAIN...



Shortly after I graduated, Ms. E fell ill and died.

the last thing I ever heard her say.



MY FAVORITE POEM WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

THIS WAS



when it
comes
to our
reasons
for living.



I begin
to feel
that size
doesn't
matter



And I wonder
if I was
born just to be
on that street
and meet the gaze
of that person.



Once
in a
while,
I'll pass
by
someone
in the
street and
our eyes
will meet.



that's
not a
bad life.

ON MY SOILED
SORROW TODAY,
THE SUN
SETS AWAY.

But
to be
able to
say what
Ms. E
did—



the
memory
grows
brighter.



as
time
passes,

but
oddly,



I don't think
that day's
lesson
had such
an impact
on me,



Notes on the Translation

P. 29

Though of the tangerine family, the *ponkan* or “mandarin orange” grows to the size of an orange. Said to originally be from India, today the fruit is mostly grown in South-east Asia. Warmer regions in both Japan and the United States, however, are also capable of cultivating them and do so.



P. 181

The precocious poet who dies young is a figure that seems to be cherished across cultures; it is embodied, in modern Japan, by Chuya Nakahara (1907-37). Like Arthur Rimbaud, his role model, he left an output that is modest in volume but whose reputation only rose since his passing. Sensitive teenagers and seasoned critics alike have continued to hold his work in high regard to this day.



Production - Hiroko Mizuno
Nicole Doehlych
Tomoe Tsutsumi

Twin Spica, volume 13

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"*Twin Spica* is a wonderful coming-of-age tale about people dedicated to something greater than themselves. The characters get richer and more complex as the story develops. Along with Asumi, our vision of the world she lives in expands, too...I pick up each volume as it comes out and keep hoping to see Asumi finally make it into space." — *Comics Worth Reading*

